

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06338 261455Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 CU-02 AGR-05

DOT-00 HEW-02 HUD-01 INT-05 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /120 W

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O R 261321Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4821

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENC ESCAP EXWA EG

SUBJECT: ECA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON HABITAT, CAIRO JUNE 21-26

REF: STATE 147838; 142524; CAIRO 6273; 6194

1. SUMMARY: ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA'S (ECA)
REGIONAL PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON HABITAT CONCLUDED WITH ADOPTION
OF RECOMMENDATION THAT ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA BE
EXCLUDED FROM VANCOUVER HABITAT CONFERENCE. RECOMMENDATION ALSO
INCLUDED STATEMENT OF KENYA DELEGATE HOWEVER, THAT CONFERENCE WAS NOT
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06338 261455Z

APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE. US DEL WORKED

CLOSELY WITH CANADIANS WHO WILL BE HOST VANCOUVER CONFERENCE AND WITH SECGEN PENALOSA. ALTHOUGH PREPARED TO GO ON RECORD OPPOSING EXCLUSION OF MEMBER STATES FROM UN ACTIVITIES, US DEL DID NOT DO SO AFTER TALKING WITH PENALOSA WHO FELT THAT AS OBSERVERS IT WAS NOT EXPECTED THAT WE WOULD SPEAK AND THAT WERE WE TO DO SO, IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL. IN VIEW FACT PREPONDERANCE OF AFRICAN/ARAB DELEGATES FAVORED EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL/SAFRICA/RHODESIA FROM VANCOUVER CONFERENCE, DAMAGE CONTROL EFFORT WAS BETTER THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. FINAL PLENARY OF ECA PREPARATORY REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON HABITAT IN CAIRO, JUNE 25, ADOPTED BRIEF AND WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF RECOMMENDATION TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL, SAFRICA AND RHODESIA FROM VANCOUVER HABITAT CONFERENCE. RECOMMENDATION WHICH WAS LAST OF 25 RECOMMENDATIONS READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PAST ACTIONS IN DEFIANCE OF VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS, WHICH ACTIONS ARE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO SPIRIT OF HABITAT, CONFERENCE OPPOSES ANY SORT OF PARTICIPATION IN HABITAT CONFERENCE BY ISRAEL, SAFRICA OR RHODESIA. ALTHOUGH AGREEING WITH SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN THIS RECOMMENDATION, DELEGATE OF KENYA SUGGESTED THAT THIS CONFERENCE WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR IT. HE SUGGESTED THAT ISSUE WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATELY DISCUSSED IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHEN THAT BODY TAKES UP RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. END QUOTE.

3. US DEL, ALTHOUGH PREPARED TO SPEAK OUT ON ISSUE OF EXCLUSION UN MEMBER STATES, DID NOT DO SO. WORKING WIT SECGEN FOR HABITAT CONFERENCE PENALOSA AND CANADIANS, IT BECAME APPARENT AS TACTICAL SITUATION EVOLVED, THAT WERE US TO SPEAK TO ISSUE, WHEN AS OBSERVERS THIS WAS NOT EXPECTED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WHEN US DEL DISCUSSED MATTER WITH PENALOSA IN EFFORT TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR POSSIBLE STATEMENT ON FLOOR, SETTING OUR VIEWS ON EXCLUSION ISSUE ON RECORD, HE ADVISED AGAINST DOING SO SAYING IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL.

3. PENALOSA HIMSELF SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST EXCLUSION AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN PLENARY HALL JUST BEFORE FINAL SESSION. PENALOSA WAS QUESTIONED REPEATEDLY BY PRESS ABOUT MATTER. HE RESPONDED SEVERAL TIMES THAT RULE OF LAW BY WHICH UN ABIDES CALLS FOR ALL MEMBER STATES TO PARTICPATE IN ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATION
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 06338 261455Z

AND THAT DISCUSSION OF EXCLUSION OF MEMBER STATE IS INAPPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. PENALOSA CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS WITH HALL BY NOW LARGELY FULL OF DELEGATES, INCE PRESS CONFERENCE RAN OVERTIME, BY STATING THAT FACT ALL PRESS COULD THINK ABOUT WAS EXCLUSION ITEM WAS AMPLE PROOF OF HOW INAPPROPRIATE AND DESTRUCTIVE THAT ISSUE IS TO REAL WORK OF HABITAT. PRESS AND DELEGATIONS PRESENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN TREATED TO A MORE ELOQUENT TOUR DE FORCE. INDISCUSSION OF ITEM ON PLENARY FLOOR

ALGERIANS, AND PARTICULARLY EGYPTIANS, WERE ACTIVE IN TRYING TO REINCOOPERATE STRONGER AND MORE CONDEMNATORY PHRASEOLOGY. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT PREPONDERANCE OF DELS WERE FOR INCLUSION OF ITEM ON ISRAEL/SAFRICA/RHOESIA INTO REPORT. ONLY KENYA AND ZAMBIA DELS SPOKE OUT AGAINST INCLUSION OF ITEM, AND THIS NOT ON SUBSTANCE BUT ON BASIS THAT IT WAS MATTER FOR GEN ASSEMBLY, NOT A REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

5. IN FINAL ANALYSIS US DEL BELIEVES WE CAME OUT BETTER THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. GIVEN OVERALL AFRICAN/ARAB SENTIMENTS, EFFORT REALLY WAS ONE OF DAMAGE CONTROL. US DEL IS GRATEFUL FOR ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM CANADIANS AND SEC GEN PENALOSA. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES, AFTER WE HAD APPROACHED THEM, WERE PREPARED TO SPEAK OUT ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH OUR STATEMENT HAD WE IN FACT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ONE. THEY WERE PREPARED TO DO THIS DESPITE FACT THAT THEY HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS. THEY, CANADIANS AND PENALOSA WERE ALL RELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT WE DID NOT FORCE ISSUE. KENYANS AND ZAMBIANS AS WELL WOULD HAVE FELT UNCOMFORTABLE WITHOUT OUR HELP. US DEL WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO DEPT FOR EXCELLENT PREPARATORY MATERIAL ON SUBSTANCE OF CONFERENCE AND FOR WISE GUIDANCE WHICH PERMITTED FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPED.

6. HIGHLIGHTS OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONFERENCE BEING FORWARDED SEPTTEL.
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